

To: The Surface Transportation Board, Section on Environmental Analysis
 From: Mary J. (Joey) Buck
 Re: CN Acquisition of E&J Railroad
 Date: January 15, 2007

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

Thank you for giving the residents of Frankfort and other affected communities the opportunity to express our grave concerns about the potential sale of the E&J Railroad to Canadian National and the impact it could have.

I reside on Aberdeen Road in Frankfort, a dead end street which is over a mile and a half long and whose only outlet is on to Harlem Avenue. Aberdeen is located approximately one half block north of the E&J tracks and runs along the tracks for its length. There are over 125 households on Aberdeen including those on several small cul-de-sacs. At present it is difficult to get out of the neighborhood due to increased traffic in recent years and this is compounded each time a train backs up traffic on Harlem Avenue. I cannot imagine what the impact will be if the number of trains coming through is *quadrupled* (from approximately 6-8 trains a day to a potential 28).

In addition to the increased number of trains, the fact that Harlem Avenue is slated to be expanded from the current two lanes to a divided four lane thoroughfare is a major factor in opposing the sale. Construction is slated to begin with new signals at Laraway Road and Sauk Trail in mid 2008 and will continue with expansion of the road between Sauk Trail and Lincoln Highway (including the portion that intersects Aberdeen Road) in 2009 and 2010. The final phase, south of Sauk Trail will occur in 2010 and 2011. The traffic will not be impeded between Lincoln Highway and Sauk Trail, except by the passing trains. We in the neighborhood will still be expected to try to work our way into or across four lanes of traffic, which could possibly have been backed up for several minutes. During construction and after, this will be a nightmare.

All of schools in our elementary district (Illinois 157C) are within blocks of the E&J tracks as are many places of business and worship. Crossing the tracks to get from one point to another once you leave our street is a given. Also, because of the way Sauk Trail and the tracks run, you have to cross the tracks twice to get to downtown Frankfort from our neighborhood via Sauk Trail. The potential road blockages and the congestion, not to mention the exhaust from the waiting cars will be an environmental disaster for our area. Please consider the scenario from our street and multiply it a thousand times by all the other areas that will be adversely impacted by this potential acquisition by Canadian National and make your recommendations accordingly.

Sincerely,



Mary J. (Joey) Buck, 508 Aberdeen Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-9217

(FYI - I have heard two sets of train horns blaring as I write.)

Surface Transportation Board
 CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
 Log and Distribution

Date Recd: _____

File No. ☒

Scanned (Initial): _____

STACT # _____

Cc: Original - Job File

HDR

live work visit **in the SOUTH SUBURBS**

